REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to make clarifying revisions to the specification and claims in accordance with U.S. practice. No narrowing of the claims scope is intended.

In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000364.00124). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this report, Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 26 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

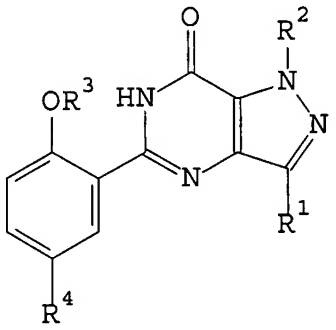
In accordance with a further embodiment, the invention pertains to the use of compounds of formula (I) and/or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts [or production of a pharmaceutical agent]for therapeutic treatment of neuropathies of the type mentioned above.

In the Claims:

Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-3 and 5 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A pharmaceutical agent for treatment of neuropathies, [characterized in that it consists, at least in part, of] comprising a compound of formula (I):



(I)

in which:

R^1 = C_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen,

R^2 = hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen or replaced with halogen,

R^3 = C_{2-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen,

R^4 = $SO_2NR^5R^6$,

C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with NR^5R^6,

CN, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

C_{2-4}-alkenyl, possibly substituted with

NR^5R^6, $SONR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

C_{2-4}-alkanoyl, optionally substituted with

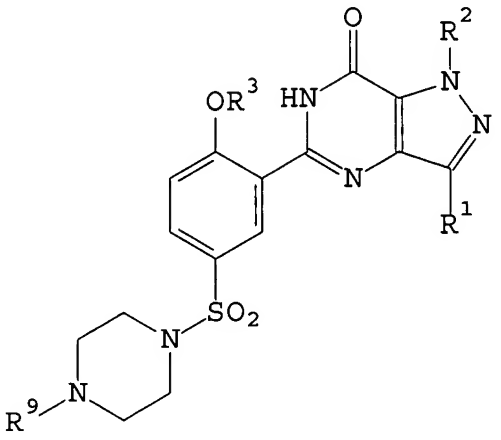
NR^5R^6, $SONR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

R^5 and R^6, independent of one another, represent hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, 4-(NR^8)-1-piperazinyl or 1-imidazolyl ring which, optionally, may be substituted with one or two C_{1-4}alkyl groups,

R^7 = hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally, are substituted with fluorine, and

R^8 = hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, or hydroxy alkyl with 1 - 4 C atoms; or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such a compound.

2. (Amended) The pharmaceutical agent according to Claim 1, [characterized in that it consists, at least in part, of] <u>comprising</u> a compound of formula (Ia):

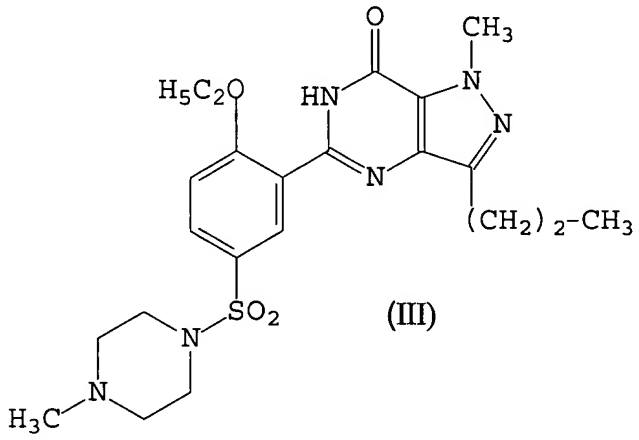


(Ia)

in which the groups R^1 to R^3 have the meaning specified in Claim 1, and R^9 is an alkyl

group having 1 - 4 C atoms which, optionally, are substituted or replaced by halogen; or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such a compound.

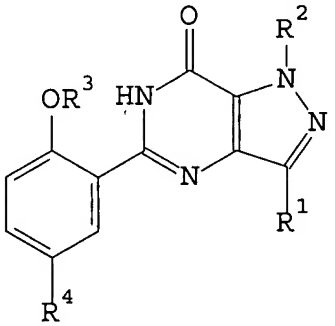
3. (Amended) The pharmaceutical agent according to Claim 1, [characterized in that it consists, at least in part, of] comprising a compound of formula (III):



(III)

or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such a compound.

5. (Amended) A chemotherapeutic method for treatment of neuropathies characterized by application to a patient of a pharmaceutical agent [which consists, at least in part, of] comprising a compound of formula (I):



(I)

in which

R^1 = C_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen,

R^2 = hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen or replaced with halogen,

R^3 = C_{2-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen,

R^4 = $SO_2NR^5R^6$,

C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with NR^5R^6,

CN, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

C_{2-4}-alkenyl, optionally substituted with

NR^5R^6, $SONR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

C_{2-4}-alkanoyl, optionally substituted with

NR^5R^6, $SONR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

R^5 and R^6, independent of one another, represent hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, 4-(NR^8)-1-piperazinyl or 1-imidazolyl ring which, optionally, may be substituted with one or two C_{1-4}alkyl groups,

R^7 = hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally, substituted with fluorine, and

R^8 = hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, or hydroxy alkyl having 1 - 4 C atoms, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such a compound.